

COBBETT's WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

[763]

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1819.

[764]

TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,
THE PRINCE REGENT.

LETTER II.

On the dangers, to which the Crown may be exposed, by its being identified with those who traffic in Seats, and in bribery, corruption and perjury, at a time when a sudden blowing-up of the Paper-Money shall take place.

North Hempstead, Long Island,

5 Jan. 1819.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR

ROYAL HIGHNESS,

Before I proceed to address your Royal Highness on the subject of preserving the Crown and preventing universal confusion, it is my duty to endeavour to convince you that there exists danger; and this I shall do in the present Letter.

Those, whose object it is to amuse and deceive your Royal Highness, give you accounts of the amazing resources of the coun-

try; and, we all well know, that its resources are surprisingly great; and, not only great in amount, but, when things are in their natural state, of such a nature and deposited and bestowed in such a way and in the hands of such a people as to make them ten-fold in effect what resources of equal mere magnitude are in some other cases. All those who know any thing of the uses of property in England, or who know any thing of the character and habits of the people, must estimate very highly the resources of the country. Those only, who are under the blindness of ignorance or of envy, can suppose it possible, that England ever can, for any length of time, become a feeble, insignificant country. It belongs to politicians like the Edinburgh Reviewers, who, at reading the romances about America, burst out into prophecies relative to the power and glory of immense regions, which now are but a wil-

derness: it belongs to such men, and only to such men, to estimate the resources of a country by fertility of soil and extent of acres. Dunderheaded Chalmers and Thief-Taker Colquhoun have displayed the strength and resources of England in a *guess* at the number of pigs, sheep, beeves, and so forth, in which respect the United States far surpass Great Britain and Ireland.

The Thief-Catcher's book was clearly intended to gain him a title; though I do hope, that your Royal Highness will not be induced to bid him rise up a Baronet, at any rate; though, after SIR BATE DUDLEY, it is difficult to say what may not be expected. The Thief-Catcher labours hard to shew, that the pigs, sheep, beeves, horses, mares, colts, cocks and hens are *so numerous*, that *the amount of the Debt is nothing at all*; or, at least, nothing worth speaking of.

This is the sort of stuff, by the means of which the people's minds have been buoyed up for the last twenty-six years. No man pretends that England has not great

resources, particularly in the ingenuity, industry, and punctuality of her people; and, which is of more value than all the rest, in their *public spirit*, their love of country, their pride of country; in which respect they exceed the people of any other country in the world.

But, Sir, the resources of the country; that is to say, the mere amount of the valuable things in a country, has very little to do with the safety of the government of that country; nor has it but very little to do in certain cases with the happiness of the people; nor with the capacity of the nation for great enterprize. A nation may possess the soil of Egypt, the population of China, the mines of Peru, and yet have *no resources at all*; for, with all these, it may be unable to bring any of its means so to act as to make the people safe in their persons at home, or to defend themselves against an invader. England, at this moment, is not very far from this state; for, while her people are shut up in dungeons with impunity to the

oppressors, her resources are so managed as to render her wholly incapable of carrying on war.

However, the view to which I am about humbly to endeavour to draw the attention of your Royal Highness is of a very different description from that of these pig-pokers and hen-roost peepers ; a view more worthy, I hope, of being presented to your mind.

If, by *the resources* of a country, we mean the *things of value* in it, these may abound to an incalculable extent, and yet they may tend to the destruction, rather than to the preservation of the government ; for, if the part which ought to remain with some men be taken away and given to other men, the greater the quantity of valuable things, the greater the quantity of injustice, and the greater the quantity of ill-will and irritation. *Labour* is one of the articles of value, and it is of more value than all the other things put together. But, if the men who labour have the *half of its produce taken from them*, the greater the quantity of labour the greater the danger to those,

who cause this act of injustice. In such a community no harmony can exist : the oppressed must *wish*, at least, for the destruction of the oppressors, and, whenever they can do it with a chance of success, they will seek their destruction.

But, these reflections aside, valuable things are of *no value* to any man, unless he can *use* them. Stockings are of no value to the stocking maker, unless he can turn them into bread and meat and house, and so forth. Horses are of no use to the horse-breeder, unless he can turn them into other things. Land is of no use to the land-owners, unless they can turn their annual worth into other things, or, indeed, unless they really eat dirt, which, from the muddiness of the heads of most of them, one would almost suppose them to do. Nor are the valuable things of a country of any use to that country in war, unless they can be turned into soldiers and sailors and implements of war.

It follows, then, of course, that, except in the *hunter-life*, where every man provides every thing

for himself, nothing is of any value, which cannot, by some means or other, be turned into some other thing. In a very thinly settled country, where each family provides for the greater part of its wants, and where the wants are few in number, this transmutation may, with great inconvenience, be effected by the exchanging one valuable thing for another of different nature but of equal value. But, this mode of dealing, if greatly inconvenient in the half hunter-life, becomes intolerable in a populous community, and, indeed, it is impossible.

Hence men sought a *standard of value*, a sign which they might give to each other; and this has, with us, taken the name of *money*. Clearly, therefore, this must be a thing of vast importance, seeing that, without it, *nothing is of any value* at all; seeing that, without it, the stocking maker must eat and drink his stockings, or be starved, and that the Land-owner must dress out his wife and daughters in dirt, or, at best, in boughs and grass. BURTON, in his foolish

and base speech, which he called a *defence of the Duke of York*, told a rignarol story about some Bishop having told him, that when he was tutor to some of the Royal Dukes, he never could make them clearly understand the value of money; which is likely to have been true enough, though coming from a Bishop; for, besides that the Bishop might not have a very clear mode of conveying his meaning, I dare say his ideas of the value of money went no further than the very simple business of hording, the utility of which it would indeed have been strange if a prince had been able to comprehend. But, to the value of money as a *performer of labour* and as a *cement of civil society*, the Royal Dukes would, I hope, have paid attention.

SWIFT, who, in one short and beautiful poem, has more sound and useful matter in political economy than is contained in all Adam Smith's bulky volumes, calls money "the *life-blood of the nation*." And it is really nothing less; for, without it, not a member can stir. If disordered, the

whole frame instantly feels the effects. If too abundant, the lenders are ruined. If too small in quantity, the borrowers are ruined, and the pennyless starved. If wholly stopped in its circulation, the society, if populous, is dissolved, and even if not populous, plunged into confusion.

A matter of such vital importance has never, heretofore, been left to the management of any hands but those of the *sovereign*, under whatever name he has been acknowledged. In England, to make and issue money, has, until of late years, been an attribute belonging solely to the king; to usurp this function of royalty is *treason* at Common Law; many men have suffered, and justly suffered, as *traitors*, for the act: and yet, we now behold a band of money-makers, issuing false money too, and hanging men for imitating their false and fraudulent money!

Without a true money; without a true standard of value: without this there can be no *contracts*. The denomination of the law is: "good and lawful money." But, no good and lawful money can

there be, if any man, or body of men, any company or any band, can change the value of the money at their pleasure; and as often as their whims, or their interests, may dictate. At every change a sweeping violation of contracts takes place; a *treason* is committed at every change; and, I do most sincerely hope, that your Royal Highness will have to order the execution of *many* of the traitors, in spite of their Bills of Indemnity. Empson and Dudley were hanged, though they pleaded acts of parliament in their defence. These were the real conspirators and traitors in January, 1817. The dungeons ought to have sounded with their groans; the gallows ought to have lifted them, and not the brave Cashman, into the air.

However, it is of the yet unaccomplished acts of these traitors that I have, at present, to speak. In order that the *standard of value*; in order that so very important a thing as the *sole cement of society* should be exposed to no danger of injury, or destruction, at least, it has wisely been the practice of all

nations to make it consist, not only of materials little liable to perish, but, from their comparative *rareness* and the *labour expended in getting at them*, of great intrinsic value, in proportion to their weight. Having taken these precautions, and having confined the power of issuing to the sovereign, a nation might with truth say, that it had a *standard of value*, or a *money*. But, when the king was robbed of his exclusive right of coining and uttering the money, and when the component matter of the money was changed from the precious metals to *paper*, there was *no standard of value*, and the property of every man lay prostrate at the feet of the new money-makers, their associates, abettors and protectors.

Suffer me to explain to your Royal Highness *how* it is that the paper-money crew pillage your father's people. They make paper-money. They lend the money so made, taking what they, in their cheating jargon, call a *discount*. Therefore, the borrower, when he brings the money back, brings a quantity, suppose a hundred pounds,

more than he has received. With this hundred pounds the money-makers *buy an acre of land*. This is the way they plunder; this is the way they grow rich; this is the way they are enabled to live like princes, while princes and people live like beggars. If, indeed, they lent *real money*; if they lent even paper for which they had given any thing of value, they would have a right to their *discount*; because they have a right to receive interest for their money. But, they *make* the thing they lend. It is the representative of nothing but their *will*; and their will is to take away the property of others. If they were *liable* to be called upon for payment in money, not of their own making, the case would be different. But, they are not. They were protected by what is called law against the just demands of their creditors. Not only can no creditor touch their bodies; he cannot touch their lands and goods; he cannot take back any part of his own property, of which they have defrauded him.

One of the great reasons, which

have long been acted upon by nations, in lodging the sole power of making, issuing and regulating money; one of the great reasons for lodging this power in the hands of the *sovereign solely*, was, that the sovereign could not, by possibility, be suspected to make, or to wish to make, a *dishonest use of this power*. The sovereign, unless supposition would admit a monster to become a sovereign, could not possibly have a selfish motive for any act calculated to injure the great mass of the people, and especially if the same act tended to throw the nation into confusion. But, if such were lodged in the hands of any private person, or any body of private persons, then the holders of such would naturally use it for their own advantage, be the consequences to the people at large what they might.

And thus has it been with that audacious and rapacious body, called the Bank of England, who, from a Company of Merchants, have, in conjunction with the seat-dealers, become the real sovereigns of England as far as

power is concerned. While this Company were held by the law; as long as they were subject to the ordinary laws of the land; as long as they were compelled to make good their pecuniary engagements, or to answer the complaints made against them in the king's courts; so long the king was master. But, from the moment, that they had a protection against the ordinary laws, they became the arbiters of the property of all men. They, by their sole will, determined what the king should receive in the shape of taxes, and whether contracts between man and man should be fulfilled, or broken.

These money-makers are now protected and upheld by the seat-filers, by annual Bills of Protection; and, while this state of things lasts, there can be no *certainty* for property. There can, in fact, be no property, seeing that nothing is worth having with a *real money*. This combination of tyrants can, at any time, make money plenty, or scarce. They, to-day, can ruin all the lenders of money, and all creditors; they

can make debts and bonds and settlements and annuities worth not a quarter part of the value agreed for. They can *reduce* rents, wages of servants, and every thing in the same proportion. Then, in the course of a few months, they can ruin all the borrowers and debtors. They can augment the value of debts of all kinds; they can double or triple rents, wages, and every thing, payment on account of which is contracted for. Works of this description they have carried on; and they can repeat them at their sole will and pleasure. It was this band of usurping coiners, who caused the severe pressure of misery in 1816 and 1817. Their seat-dealing associates ascribed the misery to a *sudden transition from war to peace*, and they ascribed the discontents of the people to my "*Two-penny Trash*." But it was the coiners who produced the misery, and it was reason which produced the complaints of the people.

What a monstrous power, then, is this! If a king were to ask for such power, if he were to show a

desire to obtain the absolute power of causing all contracts to be violated at his pleasure, and to render his people miserable whenever he pleased; if he were openly to endeavour to obtain the absolute power of inflicting starvation on a majority of his people, that people would be fully justified in destroying him as a monster, unfit to live. Yet, the seat-dealers and their Bank have not only sought for such power; but they have obtained it and exercised it.

This is something wholly *new* in the affairs of nations. Such a thing never existed before. Paper-money, Banks, Bubbles have before existed; but a power like this was never before heard of in the world; and this power has been created by the seat-dealers solely for the purpose of obtaining the means of upholding their own usurpation.

But, happily for the nation, this monstrous, this diabolical power, contains within itself the sure means of its own destruction. It is of the very essence of this power, that the money made by

the usurpers is, in itself, *worth nothing*, and that it is not exchangeable into real money at the will of the holder; because, the moment it becomes so exchangeable, the *power ceases*. The king's coin becomes the standard of value, and he again is, in this respect, at least, the *real sovereign*. And, it is this *intrinsic worthlessness* of the sham money that insures its destruction, and also the destruction of every thing which depends on it for existence.

Such a money, false and mischievous as it is, may, when once it has, either by force or fraud, been made to usurp the lawful money, last for a considerable time, even though *all* the people well know how false and base and mischievous it is. For, money is so necessary to every minute of the life of man; it is so completely the "life-blood" of civil society, that it cannot be done without for a single day, without producing the greatest of inconveniences, and, indeed, without producing, in a populous country, evils of the most terrible description, unless there be uncommon

wisdom and energy at the head of affairs. All the people; every man and every woman may detest this spurious money as heartily as I do, and yet they may feel half frozen with horror at the thought of the nation being left, only for a day, *without money*. Hence they look at the system with detestation, while they fear to see it destroyed. But, indeed, if these feelings of fear had no weight at all: if these feelings did not exist, men's *daily and hourly necessities* would make them acquiesce in the system, so far as to use the paper; and, if I myself were now under the sway of this complicated system of violence and fraud, I must take and pass the paper, or go without food and clothing. Nay, your Royal Highness, whose authority is, by this vile and impudent system, usurped, and whose office it degrades and insults, cannot dine, or ride out, without the aid of this base money.

So that, its existing and passing current, and being sought after and kept with care, are no proofs, nor signs, of its goodness or sta-

bility; but, they are complete proofs of the vast powers of money, of its indispensable necessity, and of the confusion that must inevitably arise from a total, or even a partial want of it. And hence we come to consider the dangers to the *Crown* and to the *people*, which are involved in this fraudulent system.

The counterfeiting of the king's coin to a great extent would, by creating distrust in many persons, produce great alarm and confusion. But, besides that, to do this wicked act to a very great extent, is a work of extreme difficulty: there is, in the coin, an intrinsic value to rest on, and, as to the distinguishing of counterfeits, there are, in the nature of the coins themselves, in the materials of which they are composed, certain qualities, which prove their goodness, and which qualities are easily ascertained by almost every person in trade, and, indeed, by a great part of the labourers and mechanics. So that, from a counterfeiting of coin no very great and general evil can arise. There is a *part*, at least,

of the standard of value left in circulation, however sweeping the art of counterfeiting may be. But, the base rubbish now in circulation has no foundation to rest on. It depends on mere opinion. Or, rather, on the mere supposition, or hope, or presumption of the *taker* of it, that he shall be able to pass it again. He has a horse, he wants a cow in exchange, and, if the bank note will but answer the purpose of the transmutation, it *serves his turn*. But, let any thing happen, which shall make him afraid to let the horse go for the note, lest no one will give him a cow for it: let this happen, and the nation is *without money*. The standard of value is gone, and there can be no buying and selling.

It is not here as in the case of a sweeping counterfeiting of coin; for, in the case of the coin, there is always *something* left as a standard for temporary use, at any rate. This gives breathing time. Prices fall, perhaps, prodigiously, and contracts must be violated; but still, it is impossible, that there should not be left the means

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of keeping people quiet till things can be put to rights a little. Not thus in the case of the paper, which, if a good blow be given it, falls at once. It is not a night, with moon or stars to succeed the sun, and brought on by degrees: it is total darkness, and darkness all at once by the extinguishment of the sun.

I beg your Royal Highness to contemplate the consequences of this, at least, *possible case*. Amongst the least of the consequences would be a total stop to all commerce and every species of dealing. The rich would have nothing to distinguish them from the poor, except their inferiority in point of capacity to obtain and use the necessaries of life; for, vain is the imagination of him who can hope, that, in such a state of things, and in such a country as England, and especially in such a city as London, *laws* would have any force, or that any thing like peace and order could be preserved except by general voluntary consent. Foolish is the man, who supposes, that he could obtain temporary subsistence by

his promises or his credit. Physical force would be fed first; and the right of the strongest would return backed and urged on by a mass of resentment, such as mankind never before witnessed.

In such a state of things of what use would be those *resources* of which the pompous Thief-catcher, Colquhoun, talks? The number of *hares* and *conies* would signify very little, I believe. The beeves and the colts, and the cocks and the hens would avail the nation little. The Debt and the Fundholders would be as completely forgotten as if they were clods of earth or tufts of grass. The army would melt down instantly into the mass of seekers for victuals and drink. The scene would be surpassed in sublimity of horror by nothing that the world has ever heard of except by that of the last judgment, as described by St. John the Divine.

I am not to suppose either want of talent, of courage or of inclination in your Royal Highness to perform your duty upon any occasion; but, I may, and do, doubt the use of any talent, courage or inclination in a case like this, un-

less your mind be now duly impressed with *the possibility of the occasion arising*, and unless you be prepared before-hand with a set of measures to be put into *instant execution*. And, upon these two topics it now remains for me to address your Royal Highness.

I am fully convinced, that such an event, such an end of the paper-system, is not only *possible*, but *very likely*. Your Royal Highness will permit me to observe, that Mr. TIERNEY, in his last year's opposition to the paper-coiner's protecting bill, declared, in the most solemn manner, that if that bill should pass, the system would end in a horrid *convulsion*: so that I, as to this particular, only join in sentiment with him. The bill *did pass*; and, unless the Debt be reduced, another such a bill must pass; or, the thing ends at once by the hands of those who have created it, and under whose hands it has grown to its present magnitude of enormity.

When Mr. TIERNEY made his speech, the idea of the whole fabric of fraud being blown up at once by the distribution of notes,

after the manner practised against the French Assignats, had not been publickly started; though I now find, that there are several gentlemen in *England*, who lay claim to the invention. At any rate it did not originate with me. The moment I heard of it I made it public; for doing which I merit, I am vain enough to hope, the thanks of all real friends of the king and country. There appears to be no doubt, in the mind of any man of common sense, that, *if put ably into execution*, the mode of attack could not, by any possibility, fail of being successful to the entire extent; and I again most solemnly assure your Royal Highness, that my firm belief is, that it will be ably, and most ably, put into execution, unless the object of destruction be, by some means or other, speedily removed. I state this my conviction to your Royal Highness from a sense of duty towards his Majesty and the people. I would, if any written paper of mine could be delivered to you sealed, state to you all the grounds, on which this conviction rests; but, no con-

sideration shall induce me to commit any thing to the discretion of such a man as he who sent RILEY to a dungeon: no man protected by a Bill of Indemnity shall hold a paper written by me.

The facility of imitating a worthless money must always exist; because that which one man can make, another man can make, the materials being within the reach of all men. The terrors of the gibbet have not prevented imitation of the spurious money in England, and that, too, to a very great extent, by needy persons, who make the imitations for the sake of mere food and raiment, and who carry on the work under every disadvantage that can be imagined. Even these poor distressed and desperate men have been able to give the paper-system a *rude shock*. What, then, may not be apprehended from a coolly devised plan of imitation and circulation! And, your Royal Highness will please to observe, that such a plan may be, if the thing were to go on, acted upon by any hostile nation, in time of war. It would be a work of *some diffi-*

culty for France or America, in war time between either of them and England, to spread about in England imitations of the base money; but, Sir, what are difficulties in the face of half a million of money; and what would that sum be to either of those nations, as the price of the overthrow of their enemy? With that sum every street in London might be sowed with bank notes. Some of the American prisoners of war in Dartmoor Prison, made bank notes in the prison; purchased their way out with the notes; travelled to Ireland with the notes; and with the notes purchased their conveyance out to sea to be put into American privateers, in which they attacked the English commerce. I had this information from one of the parties; and he gave reasons and facts to convince me of the truth of his story. The effects of this false and base money are mischievous beyond all the bounds of imagination.

We want no other proof of the impossibility of discerning an *imitable* money, which is, at the same time, *worthless* in itself, than

the fact, that the coiners of the English money have applied to foreign artists to assist them in devising the means of preventing imitation. A Royal Commission has been appointed; and, only think, Sir, of a *Royal Commission*, appointed to inquire into the mode of *making promissory notes for a Company of Merchants!* A Royal Commission to consult with them as to the best means of upholding their traffic! That is to say, to consult with them what is best to do, in order to enable them to continue their power of plundering the nation! Nothing speaks more plainly than this appointment.—What need have a king and houses of parliament to care about the affairs of this particular Company of Merchants? Why should a Royal Commission interfere in their particular concerns, any more than in the concerns of any other company? The cause is clear: those who recommended this appointment, were convinced, that the whole system of sway in England, rested entirely upon the paper of these Merchants, and on the further conviction, that this paper could no longer stand, unless the imitation of it could be effectually prevented.

The Bank in London was offered, by Mr. MEAD of Philadelphia,

a plan for making their notes *inimitable*. They refused the offer upon the ground, that they never *relied on the artist*. The answer was sensible; for, indeed, no reliance can be placed there. Yet, finding that *secret marks* will no longer serve their purpose; finding that *juries* no longer feel disposed to find men guilty on evidence founded on *secrets* which the *witnesses will not divulge to the juries*; finding this, the *artists* are, it seems, to be *relied on*; and, which is quite a new thing, *foreign artists* are applied to for their aid! It is imagined, that by rendering the imitation *expensive*, it will be rendered impossible to common men. The best proof that it cannot be rendered expensive is, that the *patent notes* of the Philadelphia fabrick are now imitated here and in Canada with the greatest success; so successfully as to impose on the Banks themselves.

Besides, Sir, what is the *expense*? Only a few hundreds of pounds; or, at most, a few thousands. Suppose a purse were found by only a few of those men, who have left their native country, because they could not any longer enjoy their property there; suppose a plan deliberately digested by these men, with all the oppor-

tunity of examining specimens and consulting artists; suppose this plan put into execution; suppose the whole business to be conducted with ability; in such a case the false money *must* be destroyed; and, if destroyed in this way, all the consequences of a sudden total want of a standard of value must inevitably follow.

I am aware, that those who have the real power in England now see this danger; and, I suppose that, seeing it, they will *endeavour* to provide against it. To do this, however, they have no means, other than such as would, though step by step, *put an end* to the paper-money. What measures they may adopt I do not pretend even to *guess* at. Whether they will reduce the debt, and, by that means, make a return to real money *possible*. Whether they will do this in *direct terms*, or, by a reduction of the value of the paper, this reduction being effected by giving to the real money an augmented denomination. Whether they will make *two prices*, a money price and a paper price, and demand, in the receiving of taxes, a larger nominal sum in paper than in coin. There is no guessing at what they may do, or attempt to do. Their plans and shifts and tricks and shuffles are matter of

curiosity rather than of interest, seeing that the *result* must be the total destruction of the false, base, and mischievous paper.

There is no man, who now believes, that this scandalous system of fraud and oppression can *much longer* exist; and yet, no man, in his senses, believes, that coin can resume its place without a very serious *shock* of some kind. The lowering of prices to the standard of coin would, if there were *no debt and no taxes*, produce something nearly amounting to general confusion. Contracts must, even in that case, be *revised by* public authority, and debts must be lowered in their amount by the same authority. To bring back the paper to the state of 1792, which I believe to be impossible, would produce effects nearly similar, even if there were no greater debt and taxes than then existed. The private affairs of all men are affected by the system, which cannot be changed without public authority to arrange and settle those affairs so as to make them correspond with the change in the system; or without inflicting starvation on a majority of the people. And this, may it please your Royal Highness, is on the supposition of little, or no, Debt and Taxes; to which I will add

the supposition of there being no injuries, nor recollection of injuries, rankling in the breasts of the people; and, I will, moreover, suppose the people to be as ignorant of these matters now as they were before the "Two-Penny "Trash," convinced them that Butchers, Bakers, Millers and Farmers were not the cause of their misery and the proper objects of their vengeance.

If, in such a state of things, a return to coin, or, to part coin and part paper, would produce *confusion*, what would such return produce now? And, what then would be the consequence of a sudden and complete annihilation of the paper? It is of no importance if we believe, that it is *not likely* that this latter will ever take place: it is sufficient for us to know that it *can* take place whenever it be judiciously attempted. Your Royal Highness may think, that my information as to the *likelihood* is incorrect; but, in order to induce your Royal Highness to endeavour to be prepared for such an event; to be sure, that it is in the power of any man to produce

it by the judicious use of a thousand pounds, it is much more than sufficient. And, therefore, in my next letter, I shall have humbly to beseech the attention of your Royal Highness to my opinion as to *the means of preserving the Crown and preventing universal confusion, in case of a sudden blowing-up of the Paper-Money.*

I am,

May it please Your Royal Highness,

Your most humble,
And most obedient Servant,

Wm. COBBETT.

NOTICE TO THE READER.

While the publisher was occupied in delivering the Register to the wholesale vendors last Friday evening, he received a note from a person calling himself John Wright, stating that he (Wright) was the person alluded to in certain passages of the said Register, as having made up fabricated accounts and done other jobs "too numerous to mention in this advertisement." The note further intimated, that the said passages were gross and infamous libels, and warned the publisher "at his peril" against selling another sheet. The publisher desisted accordingly, until he had taken legal advice. In the mean time a regular notice of an action was served, both on the Printer and Publisher.

Thus the matter rests at present. It is scarcely necessary to say the action will be defended.

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COBBETT's WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

[795]

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1819.

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TO
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,
THE PRINCE REGENT.

LETTER III.

*On the means of preserving the
Crown and of preventing universal
confusion, in case of a sudden
blowing-up of the Paper
Money.*

*North Hempstead, Long Island,
12 Jan. 1819.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR
ROYAL HIGHNESS,

In the two foregoing letters I have shown, I think, that the Boroughmongers have done great injury to the king and his family as well as to the people; that it has been their unvarying policy to assail each, alternately, by the means of aid afforded by the other; that, at last, however, they have brought their affairs into a state of great danger; that their power now depends solely upon the duration of a fictitious money; and that, in case of a destruction of that money, the Crown must, as matter of course, be exposed to great danger, if it

be, in the minds of people, identified with these traffickers in bribery, corruption and perjury. It, therefore, now only remains for me humbly to lay before your Royal Highness my opinion as to the means, which ought to be employed, in order to obviate that danger. I am fully aware of the powers of delusion; I know well how difficult it is for your Royal Highness to be induced to believe, that there *exists any danger*; I know well that we may listen to the most glaring falsehoods, till we regard them as undoubted truths; I know how prone all men, and princes rather more than others, are to be slow to see any danger which calls upon them for great exertion; I know how ready we are to repose *confidence* in any bold promiser, who pledges himself for our protection. But, still, I am in hopes, that your Royal Highness has now seen enough of the seat-filers to doubt, at least, of their wisdom and capacity as well as of their disposition to do any thing efficient for the preservation of the Crown and for the people's safety in case of a sudden blowing-up of the paper money.